

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TUNIS 03818 311825Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 EB-07  
PM-04 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00  
NEAE-00 /076 W  
-----311835Z 008715 /45R

O 311739Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6946  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE  
COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
CINCEUR PRIORITY  
CINUSNAVEUR PRIORITY  
CTF SIX ZERO PRIORITY  
CTF SIX SEVEN PRIORITY  
SECDEF IMMEDIATE  
USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

S E C R E T TUNIS 3818

NOFORN

CINCUSNAVEUR AND EUCOM FOR POLADS: USDOCOSOUTH PASS CINCSOUTH  
FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, ENRG, TS, OY, IT  
SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE:  
LIBYAN ALLEGATIONS ON US NAVY VESSEL; LOCATION  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TUNIS 03818 311825Z

OF "J.W. BATES"

REF: TRIPOLI 704 (DTG 301325Z MAY 77), TUNIS 3543 (DTG  
201615Z MAY 77), CINCEUR 281805Z MAY 77 (NOTAL)

1. FOR TRIPOLI: SUBJECT TO CORRECTION BY OTHER ACTION ADDRESSEES,  
WE ASSUME THAT LIBYAN FOREIGN UNDERSECRETARY ATRASH (TRIPOLI 704)

IN ERROR AND THERE ARE NO RPT NO US NAVAL UNITS IN GABES OR ADJACENT GULF. CONCEIVABLY LIBYANS MAY HAVE MISTAKEN TUNISIAN FRIGATE "PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA" FOR USN VESSEL. ONLY RECENT US NAVAL PRESENCE TO OUR KNOWLEDGE OFF SOUTHERN TUNISIA WAS "USS DEWEY" (DDG-45) WHICH CONDUCTED FOUR HOUR JOINT MANEUVERING EXERCISE WITH FRIGATE "PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA" (TUNIS 3543) APPROXIMATELY SIXTY MILES NORTHWEST OF "SCARABEO" SITES AT 1100 ON 23 MAY. AFTER COMPLETION OF DEWEY'S ROUTINE PORT VISIT TO SFAX MAY 18-23, UNITS PROCEEDED NORTH OFF KERKENNA ISLANDS WITH DEWEY DEPARTING NORTH FOR GAETA, ITALY THAT AFTERNOON FOLLOWING TERMINATION OF EXERCISE. (SFAX PORT VISIT AND DATES DEWEY WAS IN AREA ARE UNCLASSIFIED.)

2. FOR COMSIXTHFLT.WE FOUND YOUR EARLIER REPORTING ON "SCARABEO IV", BASED ON ROUTINE ON-GOING AIR RECONNAISSANCE, USEFUL. SUBJECT TO CONCURRENCE WASHINGTON AGENCIES, REQUEST EMBASSY BE PROVIDED RESULTS OF ROUTINE SURVEILLANCE ON SAME BASIS TO FIX PRECISE LOCATION OF "J.W. BATES" DRILLING SHIP AND PROVIDE INCIDENTAL SITREP IN VICINITY -- WHICH WE ASSUME IS APPROXIMATELY THAT OF "SCARABEO IV" FORMER SITE (34 DEGREES 01 MINUTES NORTH; 12 DEGREES 34 MINUTES EAST).  
MULCAHY

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, CONTINENTAL SHELF  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770193-0587  
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**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 TRIPOLI 704, 77 TUNIS 3543  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2311316  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE: LIBYAN ALLEGATIONS ON US NAVY VESSEL; LOCATION SECRET  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PLOS, ENRG, TS, LY, IT  
**To:** STATE TRIPOLI  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009